



Southern Nevada Fish & Wildlife Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Public Invited to Review Documents
Service to Remove Non-native Fish from the Virgin River
Comments Due by October 13**

The public is invited to review the Draft Amendment to the Environmental Assessment (AEA) for a proposal to remove predatory, non-native fish from the Virgin River as part of an effort to protect native fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking comments on the AEA to ensure that all human and natural resource impacts are taken into consideration.

Copies of the Draft AEA, as well as the original Environmental Assessment, will be available on the web at <http://nevada.fws.gov>, by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service at 702-515-5230, or at the following locations:

Fish & Wildlife Service Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
Mesquite Public Library, 121 West, 1st North, Mesquite, Nevada
Bunkerville Public Library, Bunkerville, Nevada

The proposal is to remove blue tilapia from the Virgin River between the Mesquite and Bunkerville agricultural diversion structures, and to assess tilapia populations downstream of these structures to the Lake Mead confluence. The river would be treated with rotenone, a naturally occurring substance that affects fish but has no known effects to humans or wildlife in the concentrations that are planned for this treatment.

Comments must be received by October 13, 2003, and addressed to the Assistant Field Supervisor, Southern Nevada Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89130. Comments will also be accepted via facsimile at (702)515-5231, or email at fw1vegasvirginriver@fws.gov.

For further information or copies of the AEA, please contact Shawn Goodchild at 702-515-5230, or by email at the above address.

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